

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 ERDA-05

OIC-02 DPW-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02

SCA-01 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 160630Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4562

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 6

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FROM ICRC USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: LUGANO CONFERENCE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -

SUMMARY OF THIRD WEEK

1. DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9-13, LUGANO CONFERENCE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS COMPLETED ITS INITIAL CONSIDERATION IN PLENARY OF REMAINING CATEGORIES OF WEAPONS. GENERAL WORKING GROUP AND SMALLER WORKING GROUPS OF EXPERTS CONTINUED DETAILED WORK ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, INCLUDING LEGAL ISSUES, SMALL-CALIBRE PROJECTILES, AND MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS.

2. WORK ON MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS HAS BEEN PASSED TO A SUBGROUP OF MILITARY EXPERTS. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD, UK-NETHERLANDS PAPER HAS BEEN BASIS OF DISCUSSION AND HAS OBTAINED BROAD SUPPORT.

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PROVISIONS TN RECORDING OF MINEFIELDS HAVE BEEN

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS. PROVISIONS ON REMOTELY DELIVERED MINES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TENTATIVELY AS "MINIMUM COMMON DENOMINATOR", BUT ARE SURE TO DRAW FURTHER CRITICISM FROM SWEDES AND OTHERS AS INADEQUATE; SWEDES SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED USE OF REMOTELY DELIVERED MINES IN "ZONE OF OPERATIONS" BUT STILL OPPOSE ANTI-PERSONNEL USE IN REAR AREAS. WITH RESPECT TO BOOBY TRAPS, SOVIETS HAVE PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY CALLED FOR COMPLETE PROHIBITION.

3. WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL EXPERTS MET TWICE TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF FORM AND CHARACTER OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENTS ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. MOST OF EXPERTS WHO SPOKE EXPRESSED TENTATIVE VIEW THAT ANY NEW PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN PROTOCOLS TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS, BUT SHOULD BE IN FORM OF NEW SEPARATE AGREEMENTS AND NOT STATED AS INTERPRETATIONS OR ELABORATIONS OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW. DISCUSSION OF OTHER QUESTIONS STILL PRELIMINARY.

4. MEDICAL GROUP AGREED THAT THE TERM "UNNECESSARY SUFFERING" WAS TOO NEBULOUS TO BE DEALT WITH REALISTICALLY FROM A SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL VIEWPOINT. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT PHYSICIANS PRESENT COULD RELATE INJURY TO A GIVEN LOGISTICAL AND/OR OPERATIONAL SITUATION WITH SOME DEGREE OF ACCURACY. IT WAS RECOMMENDED AND UNANIMOUSLY AGREED UPON THAT THE MEDICAL EXPERTS WOULD PROPOSE TO THE ICRC SUBSTITUTING THE WORD INJURY FOR SUFFERING IN ANY CONVENTION AND CODES.

5. FRAGMENTATION WEAPONS - DOCUMENT CDDH/IV/201 PROPOSES PROHIBITION OF VIRTUALLY ANY BOMBLET DISPENSING MUNITION, INCLUDING CBU'S AND ICM'S. SWEDEN, MAJOR PROPONENT OF THIS DOCUMENT, EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE WIDE AREA OF EFFECTS WHICH RESULT AND TENDENCY TO AFFECT CIVILIAN POPULATION. MANY DELS DISAGREED AND SAID THAT THESE WEAPONS, LIKE OTHERS, COULD BE USED INDISCRIMINATELY, BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT INHERENTLY SO. CANADA, USSR, FRG AND ITALY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ANY PROHIBITIONS IN THIS AREA WERE POSSIBLE. SWISS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTRODUCED A PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT WEAPONS WHICH PRODUCE FRAGMENTS NOT DETECTABLE WITH NORMAL MEDICAL PROCEDURES. AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO SWISS PROPOSAL WOULD PROHIBIT WEAPONS WHICH RELY FOR THEIR INJURIOUS EFFECT ON NON-DETECTABLE FRAGEMENTS. GENERAL CONSENSUS APPEARS POSSIBLE ON THIS ISSUE.

6. FLECHETTES -- CDDH/IV/201 ALSO PROPOSES THE PROHIBITION OF MUNITIONS WHICH ACT THROUGH THE RELEASE OF FLECHETTES. NORWAY, A SPONSOR OF PROPOSAL, SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SUCH A MUNITIONS CAUSE MULTIPLE WOUNDS, THEY ARE NOT YET CONVINCED THAT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR PROHIBITION. THEY WILL KEEP AN OPEN MIND. SIPRI AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS CONDEMNED THE USE OF FLECHETTES AND MADE SPECIFIC MENTION OF US TANK CANNISTER ROUNDS AND SPIW PROGRAM, IN WHICH FLECHETTES ARE USED AS SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION. NO DATA HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO VERIFY CLAIMS OF SEVERE WOUNDING CAUSED BY FLECHETTES. US TO PRESENT ITS INTERVENTION ON FLECHETTES, MONDAYJN 16 FEBRUARY.

7. FUEL AIR EXPLOSIVES -- SWITZERLAND, EGYPT, SWEDEN AND NORWAY REAFFIRMED THEIR DESIRE TO PROHIBIT USE OF FAES AGAINST PERSONNEL. ABSOLUTELY NO DATA HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIMS OF THE SUPERFLUOUS INJURY WHICH FAE ALLEGEDLY CAUSE. CANADA AND USSR HAVE STATED THAT DUE TO THE LACK OF DATA THEY ARE KEEPING AN OPEN MIND ON THE SUBJECT.

8. SMALL ARMS -- THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN "SMALL CALIBRE HIGH VELOCITY WEAPONS," WHICH WAS DEFINED BY BLIX (SWEDEN) AS INCLUDING ANY WEAPON OF 50 CALIBRE OR LESS. SWISS AND SWEDES PLACED SOAP BLOCK DISPLAY IN CONFERENCE CENTER LOBBY, WHICH WAS LOADED PRESENTATION TO THE EFFECT THAT 5.56 MUNITION CAUSES EXCESSIVE WOUNDS AND WAS A TERRIBLE WEAPON. SWISS TV COVERED DISPLAY. A SWISS DEMONSTRATION OF SMALL ARMS EFFECTS TESTING WAS ALSO HELD, BUT SWEDES HAD CLEARLY ORCHESTRATED IT AND USED SWEDISH OBTAINED WEAPONS, SOAP TARGETS, AND SO FORTH. UPON ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US M.16 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE FIRED, US DELEGATE POINTED OUT THAT WEAPON IN QUESTION WAS NOT M.16 BUT AN ANCIENT ARMALITE. SWISS APOLOGETICALLY CORRECTED ERROR. M.16 PROJECTILE BREAK-UP HAS BECOME SIGNIFICANT ISSUE, AS WE KNEW IT WOULD. UNIFORM TEST STANDARDS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION.FINA

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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